Indus Water Treaty

3281. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Indus Water Treaty, Government was under obligation to make a reference to the Supreme Court on the issue relating to claims of Rajasthan and Haryana for sharing of power from the various hydel projects put up on the treaty rivers;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making such a reference and permitting Punjab exclusive use of the power; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to compensate these States for being deprived of their share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Common Minimum Programme on Power

3282. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has circulated a Common Minimum Programme on Power;

(b) if so, the details of the programme;

(c) whether the Ministry has got any feed-back on the Common Minimum Programme circulated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the programme is given in Statement (*See* below). The responses received are generally appreciative of the effort to achieve a political consensus for reforms in the power sector.

Statement

Common Minimum Programme on Power

The political parties signatory to this declaration agree on the following Common Minimum Programme on Power:

- Every Indian has a right to uninterrupted and quality power supply at affordable rates.
- The work of extending electrification needs to be accelerated so as to complete:
  - i) Electrification of all villages by the end of 10th Plan, 2007.
  - ii) All households by the end of 11th Plan, 2012.
- State Governments cannot afford to supply free power.
  - — Electricity rates may be determined by independent Regulatory Commissions.
  - — Power supply may be given at subsidised rates to targeted groups only to the extent that the State Governments can afford to provide subsidies through the Budget for this purpose.
- The real problem of management and the challenge of power sector reforms lies in the distribution sector where:
  - a. All consumers need to be metered.
  - b. Power theft has attained alarming proportions. Immediate steps need to be taken to eliminate theft.
  - c. Technical losses need to be reduced.
  - d. Energy audit and accountability at the local level have to be ensured.
  - e. Commercial viability needs to be achieved in the next 2-3 years through any or all of the following:
    - — Creating Profit Centres with full accountability
    - — Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/ Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary
    - — Privatisation of distribution
    - — Or any other means.

- State Governments may evolve their own path of reforms to suit their specific conditions.
- Only commercially viable distribution can sustain and attract the investments required in the sector.
- Public sector investment in the Centre as well as in the States may be stepped up to ensure that in the 10th Plan the country is free of power shortages. This is critical for the Indian economy in the new globalised environment.
- An effective programme for conserving energy through energy efficient lighting, pump sets and other equipment needs to be implemented with urgency.
- Power sector is in a critical situation and reforms need to be undertaken to achieve the above objectives. Power sector reforms to be depoliticised in order to facilitate their speedy implementation.

Setting up Tribunal to settle Inter-State Power Disputes

3283. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has suggested for setting up Tribunal to settle inter-State disputes for sharing of hydro-electric power which often take too long to be settled to the detriment of the States concerned and the country as a whole;

(b) if so, which are the hydro-power projects disputes in question concerning the State of Rajasthan and other States in the North; and

(c) at what stage they stand at present indicating the steps so far taken by Government to settle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Governments of Rajasthan and other Northern States like Haryana have been claiming a share in the power generated by, *inter-alia*, the following hydro-electric projects:—

1. Anandpur Sahib
2. Mukerian